the tragic loss of life and destruction caused by the cyclone that hit Bangladesh on April 29-30, 1991.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY:- The visit was essentially a goodwill visit, the main purpose of which was to inqugurate, along with Chancellor Koh, the Festival of India. The visit provided an opportunity for extensive exchanges with German leaders on bilateral and international issues including Indo-German economic and commercial relations. The visit provided a fresh impatus to Indo-German co-operation.

ZIMBABWE:- The visit to Zimbabwe was to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. The Prime Minister also met a number of Commonwealth leaders, and discussed bilateral and international questions.

Setting up of Aluminium Factory in Chhota Nagpur, Bihar

1337. SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose too set up an Aluminium plant in Chhota Nagpur, Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Assistance Provided to LTTE by Sri Lankan Government

1338. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the assistance provided by the Government of Sri Lanka to flight the IPKF;

(b) whether the Government had taken up the matter with that country; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government are aware of reports of assistance given by Sri Lanka Government to LTTE against IPKF prior to its de-induction in March 1990.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Sri Lanka Government maintains that its assistance to LTTE was not directed against IPKF but to enable LTTE to confront rival Tamil groups.

Issue of Passports by RPOs

1339. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI A. CHARLES:
SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications rerceived and disposed of between August 1, 1991 and October 231, 1991 by each Regional Passport Office in the country;

(b) the reasons for delay in disposing of the remaining applications: and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to start a Passport Office at Trivandrum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Information is being collected.

(c) It has been decided to upgrade the Passport Liaison Office at Trivandrum to a full-fledged Passport Office. Requirements of staff, accommodation, furniture and equipment for proposed Passport Office Trivandrum are presently being assessed in

consultations with Passport Offices at Cochin, Kozhikode and the Passport Liaison Office at Trivandrum. Redistribution of posts, furniture's and equipment among offices at Cochin, Kozhikode and Trivandrum is being organised.

[*Translation*]

Scholarships to Foreign Studies in India

1340. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign students being nominated and granted scholarships by the Government for undergoing studies in India, country-wise; and

(b) the number of such students from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries who have been granted scholarships during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Information is being collected from various Ministries/Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

West Asia Peace Conference

1341. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:
DR. C. SILVERA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a peace conference on the problems of West Asia was held recently at Madrid; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government towards its outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has welcomed the Middle East Peace Conference. It has expressed the hope that the process of negotiations initiated by this meeting will culminate in the achievement of a just ad comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem and the Palestinian issue and will usher in an era of regional aity, peace and cooperation.

Production of Crude Oil

1342. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:
SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been substantial shortfall in the indigenous production of crude;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to increase its production; and

(c) the quantity of crude produced during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Against a target of 35.9 million tonnes set for 1990-91, 33 million tones of crude oil was produced. The shortfall has been due to leakage from certain subsea pipelines, reservoir considerations (pressure decline, increase in GOR and water cut), Officers's strike, and delays in implementation of certain schemes.

(c) The crude oil production in 1989-90 and 1990-91 has been 34.69 million tonnes and 33.00 million tonnes, respectively. In 1991-92, upto September 1.326 million tonnes of crude oil was produced.

Alleged Attacks on Fiji Shrines

1343. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: